

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 27, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 27, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

The claims stand restricted under 37 CFR 1.499 as follows:

Group I, claims 1-20 are drawn to a seismic acquisition system.

Group II, claims 21-25 are drawn to a method for use in a seismic survey.

The Examiner takes the position that Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Groups I and II are related as apparatus and process for its use; and Groups I and II contain multiple species and therefore comprise multiple systems and processes, which are not allowable categories of invention under PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2. In response, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, i.e., claims 1-20.

Applicants are further required to elect a single species of the following to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

A. The embodiment wherein the cable is land based cable only.

B. The embodiment wherein the cable is an ocean bottom cable only.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect species A for consideration by the Examiner. As such, at least claims 1 and 6 are readable on species A.

Upon election of species A or B, Applicants are required to elect a single species of the following to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

a. elect a single species of seismic data sources, e.g., seismic sources only; seismic sources, seismic sources, seismic receiver and positioning instruments only.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect seismic sources only species for consideration by the Examiner. As such, at least claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 13 and 17-18 are readable on seismic sources only species.

Upon election of species of seismic sources in "a", Applicants are required to elect a single species of the following to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

b. elect a single species of the seismic sources, e.g., air guns only, vibrator and explosive charge only.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect vibrator only species for consideration by the Examiner. As such, at least claims 1 and 8 are readable on vibrator only species.

Upon election of species of seismic sources in "a", Applicants are required to elect a single species of the following to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

AA. The embodiment wherein the receivers are hydrophones only.

BB. The embodiment wherein the receivers are geophones only.

CC. The embodiment wherein the receivers are hydrophones and geophones.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect species BB for consideration by the Examiner. As such, at least claims 1 and 9 are readable on species BB.

Applicants are further required to elect a single species of the following to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

c. elect a single species of the process performed in the method or by the data collection system, e.g., a synchronization service only; a synchronization service, a location mapping service, and an auto-configuration for reconfiguring the network only.

In response, Applicants provisionally elect synchronization service only species for consideration by the Examiner. As such, at least claims 1 and 11-12 are readable on synchronization service only species.

The Examiner takes the position that the claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

A/B, a, b, c – claims 1-8 and 10-25

A/B, a, AA/BB/CC, c – claims 1-7 and 9-25

The Examiner further states that claims 1-5, 10-12 and 21 are generic and that the species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the same reasons as stated above regarding Groups I and II.

Withdrawal of the restriction is respectfully requested. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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